Heavier penalties sought for illegally using steroids

RICHMOND

Bernard L. Henderson, Jr., the state's top health regulatory official, today urged increased criminal penalties for illegal possession, sale or distribution of real or counterfeit anabolic steroids in Virginia.

Henderson, director of the Department of Health Regulatory Boards, says his department's study of the misues of anabolic steroids among minors revealed a problem of potentially major proportions.

The study was conducted by a special task force.

The task force said, "Action is necessary...if further damage to Virginia's youth is to be prevented."

The key recommendation in the 34-page report was for the 1989 General Assembly to classify the illegal possession, sale or distribution of real or bogus anabolic steroids as a Class 5 felony, with penalties ranging from one to 10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to $20,000.

The 1988 state legislature made the sale or distribution of anabolic seriods to minors without a prescription a Class 1 misdemeanor subject to one year imprisonment and/or up to a $1,000 fine.

In summarizing its study, the task force said Virginia coaches and athletic directors surveyed during the study recognize that use and abuse of anabolic steroids by adolescents in the Commonwealth is growing.

The task force survey cofirmed the findings of a national study that documented the use of steroids by as much as seven percent of male high school seniors.

While there is some evidence that steroids, coupled with intense training and special dietary programs, can enhance athletic performance, the task force said, the benefits "are far outweighed by evidence that anabolic steroids use can cause serious health problems and negative psychological effects."

The task force said an extensive black market exists in Virginia to supply the increased demand for anabolic steroid

ASSISTANT BUYERS SALE

BOOTS, 25% TO 50% OFF

FROM • 9 WEST • NATURALIZER • ENZO ANGIOLINI • CALICO • MORE

69.98 SALE
Save 30% on Laureen by 9 West. A classic leather riding boot with a high shaft and low stacked heel. In black, tan or camouflage green. (D.215) Orig. $107

69.98 SALE
Save 25% on Fleetwood by Naturalizer. Low-heel leather boot with non-slip sole and side zipper with gored insert. In black, brown or taupe. (D.255) Orig. $96

59.99 SALE
Save 50% on Degas by Enzo Angiolini. This high-shaft leather dress boot has a high stacked heel and removeable collar. Black, brown or chalk. (D.156) Orig.* $120

59.99 SALE
Save 50% on Varsity by Nina.** A leather riding boot with high shaft and accented with suede piping. Available in black or brown. (D.256) Orig.* $120

59.99 SALE
Save 50% on Corot by Enzo Angiolini. Leather dress boot on a stacked wedge heel, with lizard texture and removeable collar. In black or brown. (D.156) Orig.* $120

59.98 SALE
Save 40% on 728I by Etienne Aigner.** This classic riding boot features an attractive mid-shaft design on a low stacked heel. In black. (D.717) Orig.* $107

59.98 SALE
Save 35% on Gator by Calico. A mid-heel boot with non-skid sole and textured leather detailing on shaft. in black, brown or snowdrift. (D.356) Orig. $96

49.99 SALE
Save 25% on Helga by 9 West. This leather riding boot looks great with a comfortable stacked mid-heel design. Available in black or brown. (D.215) Orig. $67

49.98 SALE
Save 45% on Lance by Gloria Vanderbilt. Lizard texture accents this leather riding boot on the heel and collar. Angora, coach tan, black. (D.156) Orig.* $98

HECHT'S
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

*Intermediate markdowns have been taken.
**Varsity available at all stores except Tysons Corner, Salisbury, Howard St., Golden Ring, Bel Air. 728I available at all stores except Laurel, Manassas, Golden Ring, Security Mall, Bel Air, Marley Station.
A different selection at each store.

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
■ Kids Talk B7

Plight of the Homeless - Part II

Some help is available-- but not nearly enough

EACH NIGHT 1,500 homeless people search for shelter among the less than 600 available beds—some get left out.

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Reporter

America's homeless situation has escalated into gigantic proportions. Economic forecasters have projected a healthy fiscal atmosphere in which the value of the dollar will grow stronger each day, yet both the number of homeless individuals and the myriad circumstances contributing to their situation has dramatically increased.

In an effort to ease the physical and emotional burdens shared by over 1,500 Baltimoreans who each night find themselves without shelter, several unassuming organizations and individuals have decided to do something to ease their plight.

The Midtown Churches Community Association is an ecclesiastical combine which has taken up the banner of the homeless by providing temporary shelters and soup kitchens as well as clothing drives and medical attention.

The churches which belong to the organization are: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1900 St. Paul St.; Ann's Catholic Church, 528 E. 22nd St.; Brown's Memorial Baptist Church, 3215 Belvedere Ave.; Lovely Lane Methodist Church, 2200 St. Paul St.; Seventh Baptist Church, North and St. Paul Sts. and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. This is a non-profit effort which is supported through both church and individual donations and is staffed by unpaid volunteers.

The executive board of the Midtown Community Churches Association is composed of officers representing each of the churches within the group. The President is Dr. Emora Braans of Lovely Lane, Vice President; Father Joseph Muth of St. Ann's, Treasurer; Rev. John Clark Secretary; Beth Glasgow of Lovely Lane.

Ester Reaves is director of the Midtown Association and is responsible for the day to day operation of the shelter network and its kitchens. Reaves says, "Hunger is the other side of the homeless coin,those who do not have shelter most likely are not able to adequately meet their food needs either."

Other non-profit organizations such as: Bread on the Water and Second Helping contribute to the efforts of the Midtown Community Churches Association by distributing and or providing food for shelter kitchens.

Second Helping is a city agency which re-distributes damaged can goods and perishables from retailers so this food may be used by area shelters and soup kitchens.

The City of Baltimore through the efforts of Mayor Schmoke has expressed its concern for the plight of the homeless by creating the Mayor's Homeless Relief Advisory Board. The Mayor has assigned this task force the responsibility of relieving and abating many of the problems surrounding the city's homeless situation.

The Mayor's Advisory Board is composed of 13 members who are appointed by the Mayor. Representatives who provide non-profit homeless services such as Action for the Homeless and The Homeless Union as well as representatives from five city agencies are on the board.

These agencies fall under the umbrella of the City Health Department, Social Services, City Jail, Housing Department, and Police Department meet to discuss what measures are need in order to best meet the needs of Baltimore City's homeless individuals.

Gene Bartell is the Coordinator of Baltimore City's Homeless Services, this agency operates from offices in City Hall which are shared with the Mayor's Advisory board. They are paid City employees who act as laision and support staff for the 13 member board.

The increase in the number of homeless has strained the area's support services but it has also increased the number of groups organized to help the homeless.

As the homeless population multiplies so does the number of individuals and organizations who are willing to contribute their energy and resources to help the less fortunate among us who have no home to call their own. Many of these volunteers realize that as the gap between America's have and have-nots widens each day so does the number of situations which contribute to a family's homelessness.

They know each of us is affected and at any time could find themselves in the same situations.

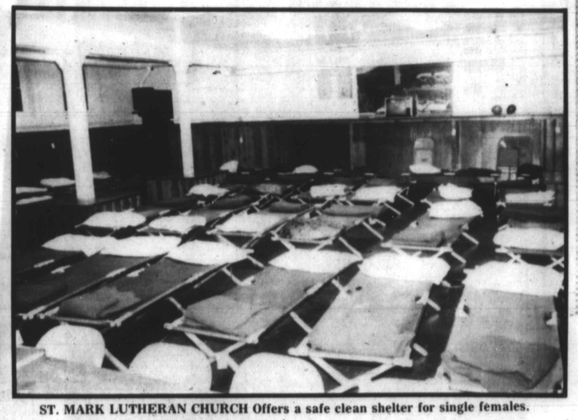
"OUR DAILY BREAD" provides this woman with what might be her only balanced meal for the day.

Even for the young the question is where next?

AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene

OFTEN the homeless must choose between constructing make shift shelter or having no shelter at all.

BEA GADDY works overtime providing shelter for homeless families.



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH Offers a safe clean shelter for single females.